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THE OBSERVATOR.

Remarks on the glorious Victory obtain'd by the Confederates, over the French *near* Audenard, July *the* 11*th*, 1708. *S. N. With an Account of it, as publish'd by Authority in* Holland *and* England.

From Saturday, July 3. to Wednesday, July 7. 1708.

Country-m. NOW, Master, I can entertain you with a Fighting-Story, the noblest that ever you heard of. God has been pleas'd to bless the Arms of her Majesty, and those of her Allies, with one of the most compleat Victories over the *French* King, and his Grandson, the Duke of *Anjou*, that any History makes mention of; and what makes it the more observable, is, that Providence confer'd this Victory upon us, the very same Day that the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Council of the Honourable City of *London*, declar'd themselves to be on God's Side, by confirming their Order for preventing the open Impieties acted at *Bartholomew*-Fair, and by restricting it to three Days, according to the original Grant.

Obs. I rejoyce in it with all my Heart, *Roger*, and join with all good Christians in offering up Praises to Almighty God for both those Victories; which, tho' some People may ridicule as *Cant*, I value it not; for a Victory over one's own Vices, and those of others, is more glorious in Reality, than the most compleat Victory over all other Enemies. However, you may remember, *Roger*, that when you first told me of the Order of the Honourable City against *Bartholomew*-Fair, I express'd my Hopes, that it would be attended with a Blessing; and tho' we are not to be too bold with the Designs of Providence, or too particular in our Applications of the several Steps of it; yet I can't but think it very observable, that the Victory happen'd on that very Day, and hope it will therefore be a strong Motive, both to the Government and People, to advance a national Reformation; which is the best Way of returning Thanks to God, for so great, so seasonable, and so unexpected a Blessing, as this Victory. But pray give me the Particulars, *Roger*.

Country-m. Before I come to the Particulars, Master, I must take Notice of a remarkable Circumstance, which I think relates to many of our Citizens, and other Traders, who had Effects in *Ghent* and *Bruges*, which the *French* had taken by Treachery and Surprize, and publish'd Orders by Sound of Trumpet three Days successively, that whoever had any Effects belonging to the Confederates, should discover them, on Pain of forfeiting double the Value. Now, Master, I think it deserves Observation, that on the very Day when the City confirm'd their excellent Order against the Abuses of *Bartholomew*-Fair, that the Fruits of this glorious Victory should extend it self in particular to our Traders; which I hope, presages a farther Blessing upon their Commerce, as a Reward for the City's Stedfastness in their noble Resolve, notwithstanding the many Endeavours made Use of to make them alter it.

Obs. I think it very observable indeed, *Roger*. But pray give me as succinct an Account of the Victory, as you can.

Country-m. The Account, Master, as publish'd by the Authority of our Government, and that of the States-General of the united Provinces, is, in Brief, thus:

'That the Confederate Army having pass'd the '*Dender* and *Scheld* the 9th and 10th, S. N. the '*French* had Notice of it the 11th, and withdraw-'ing their Troops that had invested *Audenard*, they 'march'd about nine in the Morning to attack our 'Detachment of 18 Battalions, which had first 'pass'd the *Dender*, but perceiving we had march'd 'over a great Body of Troops, *viz.* 10 Battalions 'and 30 Squadrons, with 14 Cannons, under M. 'G. *Cadogan*, they turn'd off towards the River *Lys*, 'and posted several Battalions in a Village on the '*Scheld*, and the neighbouring Hedges, to cover their 'March. About three in the Afternoon we at-'tack'd the Village, and after a small Resistance, 'took the Brigadier there, with most of his Bri-'gade, and three Battalions, that were posted in 'the Hedges. Our whole Army following with all 'possible Diligence, to prevent the Enemy's passing 'the *Lys*, or retreating towards their Lines; on 'the 11th, about three in the Afternoon, the said 'Detachment, with the Head of our Army, at-'tack'd the *French* on their March, and in a little 'Time, Brigadier *Sabine*, at the Head of his Bri-'gade, defeated seven *French* Battalions, kill'd a 'great Number, and took most of the rest. This 'forc'd the Enemy to a general Engagement. They 'drew up their Foot in three Lines against ours, 'who had then only form'd one Line; but our 'Foot being well sustain'd by our Horse, had Time 'to draw up in Order of Battel, and then a great 'Fire begun on the Right, and in the main Battel 'on both Sides. Upon this, our Generals detach'd '18 Battalions, and some Horse from the Left, to 'attack the *French* on the Rear, so that being charg'd 'both in Front and Rear, they were forc'd to give 'Way. The general Battel began about five, and 'continu'd with great Fierceness till near ten at 'Night; and the Ground being not fit for Horse, 'our Foot had the greatest Share in the Action. 'The *French* Foot being very much press'd in the 'Plain and Hedges, Part of them made their E-'scape in the Dark thro' the Middle of ours; so 'that had there been two Hours more Day, we 'should have taken above 8000 Prisoners. All the 'Troops of the *French* King's Houshold, who fought 'against our Left, were push'd by our Foot to the 'Woods, where they sav'd themselves, leaving their 'Horses and Boots behind them; so that at last we 'obtain'd a compleat Victory. Among the many '*French* Generals which are taken, there are the 'Princes of *Rohan* and *Carignan*, the Marquis *de Bi-'ron*, the Count *de Houssy*, *&c.* besides the Slain, 'and the three Battalions taken near the *Scheld*. 'Our Left took 3000 common Soldiers, 40 Stan-'dards, 30 or 40 Colours, and some Kettle-Drums, 'with all their Cannon and Baggage which they 'left at *Gaveren*. We cut off their Retreat from '*Tournay* and *Ipres*, towards which they fled, and 'sent 40 Squadrons of Horse, with 20 Battalions 'of Foot, to pursue the rest, who fled towards '*Ghent*; and some thousands of 'em, with several 'General Officers, are brought Prisoners to *Aude-'nard*; so that one third of their Army was de-'stroy'd, when the Letters came away. His Grace 'the Duke of *Marlborough*, Prince *Eugene* of *Savoy*, 'and General *Averquerque*, tho' still very weak by 'his late Illness, continu'd all Night on Horseback, 'to animate our Troops; and the Prince of *Nassau*, 'Stadtholder of *Friezland*, distinguish'd himself in 'the Action.

This

This is the Subſtance, Maſter, of what is publiſh'd by our Government and the States General. The moſt remarkable of what the other Papers ſay more concerning it, is, 'That there are above '14000 *French* kill'd and drown'd on the Spot, 'and that there are about 10 or 11000 taken Pri-'ſoners, among whom 'tis hop'd we ſhall find the 'Dukes of *Burgundy* and *Berry*, becauſe ſome Let-'ters ſay the Prince of *Carignan*, who is taken him-'ſelf, ſent to deſire the Duke of *Marlborough* not to 'fire into the Wood with his Cannon, becauſe 'they were there.

Obſ. 'Tis a glorious Victory indeed, *Roger*. The immediate Hand of the Lord God of Hoſts, is viſibly to be ſeen in it; and may he give the Confederates Grace to aſcribe that Glory to him which is due, and to make a good Improvement of it, by clearing themſelves of ſuch Guilt, as has brought this remarkable Vengeance on a Prince, who for ſo many Years has been the ſworn Enemy of the Proteſtant Religion, and the Liberties of *Europe*; who has been ſo notoriouſly guilty of Perſecution, and of the Breach of the moſt ſolemn Oaths, Treaties, and Contracts, which he only made Uſe of as Snares to entangle his Neighbours, in order to faſten a Yoke of Slavery upon their Necks, and to drag them after his triumphal Chariot. Heaven has now puniſh'd him for accepting the blaſphemous Titles of *Immortal* and *Invincible*, which his flattering and ſlaviſh Subjects conferr'd upon him; and as they have been Partakers of his Guilt, they have a large Share in his Puniſhment. *May other Nations hear this, and fear*; and may all Princes and Courtiers take Warning from his Fate, how they break Coronation-Oaths, invade original Contracts, ſubvert laudable Conſtitutions, invade the Liberties of their Subjects, uſurp over their Neighbours, and aſpire at a deſpotick Power over the Bodies and Souls of Men.

Country-m. I give a hearty Amen to your Prayer, Maſter; and hope this Victory will be improv'd in another Manner, than thoſe we have formerly had, that all and every one of the Confederates will reform thoſe Crimes which made God for ſome Time forbear going out with our Armies. He has, on this Occaſion, given us a remarkable Inſtance how he can both humble and exalt; and that it is he alone who raiſes up one, and caſts down another. We had but a melancholy Proſpect from the News brought us by the former Poſt, which left the *French* Maſters of *Ghent* and *Bruges*, where the ungrateful Inhabitants inſulted our Countrymen, and refus'd our Aſſiſtance, particularly at *Ghent*, when at the ſame Time they treacherouſly let in the *French*. We could not then have expected ſuch a ſudden and happy Turn of Affairs, Maſter; therefore I wiſh our Gratitude may be anſwerable to our Deliverance, leaſt God be yet provok'd to turn our Joy into Mourning, as he has ſo ſpeedily done that of our Enemies; and I hope, if there be any Triumph order'd on this Occaſion, Care will be taken, that it be ſo manag'd, as not to divert People from joining in the ſolemn Aſſemblies, to return Thanks to God, as has formerly happen'd.

Obſ. We are very much to blame in our common Way of Rejoycing, *Roger*; 'tis downright brutiſh, for People to riot in Taverns, and other publick Houſes, as is too frequent on ſuch Occaſions, as if they were deliver'd, *That they might ſtill be more wicked*; therefore I could heartily wiſh, that on all ſuch Rejoycings, the Magiſtrates would iſſue out ſtrict Orders for Conſtables, and others, 'to 'put the Laws in Execution againſt Exceſſes. It were certainly more commendable for thoſe, who profeſs themſelves to be of the Reform'd Religion, to keep in their Families, and together with a moderate and cheerful Uſe of the good Creatures of God, return joint Thanks to him, than to be guilty of ſuch Abuſes as may provoke God to withdraw his Hand, and bring former Dangers upon us: For as this would Occaſion a more univerſal Conſumption of our Product, and make every one Sharers of the publick Joy, it would be pleaſing to the Almighty, and the ready Way, thro' the Interceſſion of our bleſſed Saviour, who is God over all, to continue and enlarge our Bleſſings. In Victory, *Roger*, we ought always to be mindful of Adverſity; *for we all know, that the Battel is not to the Strong*. Inſolence, on ſuch Occaſions, is provoking both to God and Man, and has frequently depriv'd the Conquerors of the Benefits they might otherwiſe have expected from their Conqueſts. It has likewiſe been too common among Princes and Courtiers, when they have obtain'd Great Victories, to make Uſe of them for incroaching upon the Liberties of their own Subjects, by whoſe Blood and Treaſure they were purchas'd. We have Reaſon to be thankful, that we are in no ſuch Danger under ſo gracious a Sovereign. But if this Victory bring on a Peace, as probably it may, 'tis to be hop'd, the Proteſtant Allies will take Care of their Brethren in *Hungary* and *Germany*, and not ſuffer them to be inſulted, as they were after the laſt Peace, by Popiſh Princes; and that a peculiar Regard will be had to the *French* Proteſtants, that the Edict of *Nantz*, ſo treacherouſly violated, may be renew'd; that the Aſſemblies of the States may be reſtor'd in *France*, and the Priviledges of the Cortes reviv'd in *Spain*; that the Monarchs of ſuch potent Kingdoms may not be ſo abſolute as of late, to the manifeſt Danger of the Liberties of *Europe*, and the Extirpation of the Proteſtant Religion.

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